



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900

Boston, MA 02114-2119

Mitt Romney
GOVERNOR

Kerry Healey
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Stephen R. Pritchard
SECRETARY

Tel: (617) 626-1000
Fax: (617) 626-1181
<http://www.mass.gov/envir>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 16, 2005

CONTACTS: Joe O'Keefe, EOE
(617) 626-1126
Joe Ferson, EOE
(617) 626-1119

EOEA SECRETARY PRITCHARD PRESENTS \$300,000 IN GRANTS FOR WORK ON DOYLE FIELD IN LEOMINSTER

Environmental Affairs Secretary Stephen R. Pritchard, today, celebrated the awarding of two Urban Self Help Grants totaling \$300,000 for design and restoration work at Doyle Field in Leominster. Doyle Field is a 17-acre location that is the most utilized recreational facility in the city.

Urban Self Help Grants are awarded specifically to assist cities and towns in acquiring and developing land for park and outdoor recreation purposes. Grants are available for the acquisition of land, and the construction and restoration, or rehabilitation of land for park and outdoor recreation purposes.

"The Doyle field Project is going to take an investment of \$3.3 million in order to be fully realized," Pritchard said. "I want to commend the Doyle Field Foundation for their efforts in leveraging public/private partnerships. Their fundraising efforts, so far, have borne considerable success, most notably in the form of a \$1 million donation from an anonymous donation. Congratulations and continued success as you move closer towards meeting that \$3.3 million target."

Also in attendance were the mayor of Leominster, Dean Mazzrella, State Senator Robert Antonioni and State Representative Jennifer Flanagan.

Senator Antonioni added, "Today's announcement is a historic day for the City of Leominster as we will be able to begin the first major phase in renovating and expanding this community resource for all residents. Growing up in Leominster, Doyle Field has been a special place for me and I am proud to be a part of an effort to ensure Doyle Field remains a special place for Leominster residents for many years to come. I want to thank Secretary Pritchard and the

Administration for their commitment to the Urban Self Help and Self Help programs, as well as all of the local officials who were instrumental in securing the funding for their vision of a better Doyle Field."

Under Phase I of the renovation of Doyle Field, new locker rooms and public rest rooms will be constructed, ones that are compliant with the federal requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act. There will also be work on the concession stands, and the storage areas underneath the new bleachers and press boxes.

Work will also be done to convert the natural turf to artificial turf; and to create a performance area for cultural events.

The plaza and pavilion to be constructed will create a central space for viewing of sporting events, gatherings for lunch, and hosting cultural events. The Pavilion will also serve as an endowment tool to raise funds for the long-term maintenance of Doyle Field.

The entire master plan for Doyle Field, in fact, celebrates the history of the site, reorganizes and improves playing fields, creates a walkway system with resting spaces, realigns the street to improve safety, and enhances the bowl-shaped field.

Representative Flanagan added, "Receiving the Urban Self Help Grant in the amount of \$300,000 will certainly help revitalize Doyle field. We would like to thank the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs for their assistance and support in the project and for being here today to award these funds. Doyle Field has been an asset to the City of Leominster for many generations. It certainly holds with it many, many fond memories from countless games and events. We look forward to the final results."

Urban Self Help Grants were first established in 1977 under the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA). Under the Division of Conservation Services, which currently administers the Program a total of \$3.2 million was made available in grants during fiscal year 2005 for ongoing construction projects.

###